

# SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

**March 5th, 2017**

“...the LORD will not forsake HIS people for HIS Great Name’s sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you HIS people.”

1 SAMUEL 12:22



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**JOSEPH D. MURPHY, PASTOR**

WEBSITE

**SovereignGrace.us**

ADDRESS

**23033 Hughey Lane  
New Caney, Texas 77357-4993**

MAILING ADDRESS

**P.O. Box 2160 77357-2160**

PHONE

**(832) 543 5333 / (832) 995 7925 cell**

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## **Schedule of Services**

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm

*\* On the first Sunday of each month, we will observe the Lord's Table in the 11:00 am service and then have lunch in the fellowship building.*

## **Nursery**

*Nursery available for 4 years old and younger*

**This evening's podcast speaker will be PASTOR JACK SHANKS**

**1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-11 — GOD GIVES THE INCREASE**

To find our podcast search for the keyword **PurposedGrace** on



Apple's **Podcast App** or



Google's **Play Music App**

**\*Our featured sermon is made available every Sunday at 6:00 PM**

## **WHAT IS THE REASON OF YOUR HOPE OF SALVATION?**

“SANCTIFY THE LORD GOD IN YOUR HEARTS: AND BE READY ALWAYS TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERY MAN THAT ASKETH YOU A REASON OF THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU WITH MEEKNESS AND FEAR” 1 PETER 3:15

Dear reader, are you among those who profess to be saved? Are you among those who profess to have everlasting life? If I ask you for the reason of the hope you have to enter into that celestial city, what answer would you give me?

Will you say—because *‘I believe’*? Will you say—because *‘I turned from my sins’*? Will you say—because *‘I follow the Lord Jesus Christ’*? Will you say—because *‘I was baptized in His name’*?

While all those responses appear to be the sound answers of a believing sinner, are they? Let's remember my question — *‘What is the reason of the hope you have?’* (1 PETER 3:15).

Beloved believing sinner, while you may indeed believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, while you may indeed follow the Lord Jesus Christ, while you may have been baptized in His name, the reason of the hope we have, does not begin or end with ‘I’, but rather very blessedly it begins and ends with ‘Him’, our God, Christ Jesus the Lord!

Consider the multitude of *'Pharisees'* that will stand before our Lord on that great day! Unconverted men and women, who are after the similitude of that Pharisee who said within himself *"I thank thee, that I am not as other men are"* they will say—*'I prophesied in thy name', 'I have cast out devils', and 'I have done many wonderful works.'* (MAT. 7:21-23)

Satan is *"...more subtil than any..."* and he deceives many professing untaught Christians today, into thinking that they have made themselves to differ. Rather than having a hope in Him who makes His people to differ, their false hope is found in thinking they made themselves to differ. They are those who blindly thank God, that they are not as other men are! And attribute their salvation to themselves and not the Lord Jesus Christ (Read 1 CORINTHIANS 4:7, JOHN 6:45).

Unconverted men and women say *'I believe in His name'*, they say *'I follow the Lord'*, they say *'I was baptized'* — and yet, being dead in sins and trespasses, they cannot rejoice with God's people who declare *'I was made to believe'* *"not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man"*, but very blessedly, undeservedly, *"of God."* By His grace in Christ—He has begotten me by His Spirit, for He made me to differ!

Just ask our brother Paul, *"Paul how is it that you believe on Christ?"* He tells us in God's word—I found myself believing because *"...it pleased God...by His grace...to reveal His Son in me"* (GALATIANS 1:15-16).

My friend, if the reason of your hope of eternal life...if the testimony of your hope of salvation does not start and finish with the Lord Jesus Christ, you are, even now, lost in the sin of your unbelief!

I pray, that the Lord will grant you to learn the song of the redeemed, for if you continue to sing within your stoney ground heart *'I am worthy...I am not as other men are'* you *'shall go away into everlasting punishment'* from the presence of the Lord (MATTHEW 25:31-46).

Beloved, the reason of our hope, the song of our hope, very blessedly, is that new song of the redeemed in Christ, that attributes all of our salvation to Him — who alone is *"worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for [CHRIST] wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by [His] blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;"* (REVELATION 5:9).

Believing sinner, what is the reason of the hope you have? Praise the Lord! It is HIM! The author and finisher of our faith, indeed the sure hope of our salvation is the Lord Jesus Christ himself — our sure hope of salvation by His blood and righteousness. AMEN!

PASTOR

## 'COME AND SEE'

"...NATHANAEL SAID UNTO HIM, 'CAN THERE ANY GOOD THING COME OUT OF NAZARETH?' PHILIP SAITH UNTO HIM, 'COME AND SEE.'" (JOHN 1:46)

You are invited to **SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH**. We are a Sovereign Grace fellowship. Our purpose for meeting is to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. *'We believe Christ and Him Crucified'* is not merely a slogan, it is the sum and substance of all we say and do. He is all and in all. Here is what we believe:

**CHRIST ALONE** Christ is the Gospel. It is all about Him. (ROMANS 1:1-3). He is all in the Scriptures; all to God, all in salvation, and all to every believer. Christ's atonement was effectual for His people. All who bow to the Lordship of Christ are saved (JOHN 17:1,2).

**THE SCRIPTURES ALONE** The Bible is the Word of God (1 TIMOTHY 3:16). All scripture is given by inspiration of God. It contains no contradiction whatsoever. We do not derive our doctrine from men or denominations. The Bible is our rule of our faith and practice — *"...if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them"* (ISAIAH 8:20).

**GRACE ALONE** The electing grace of God begins salvation, and God's glorification is the finishing of His salvation. Salvation is not what you do for God, but what God does for you. No part of salvation can be ascribed to man. To give any part of salvation to the religious efforts, good works, or free will of man is to deny salvation by GRACE (EPHESIANS 2:8-10, HEBREWS 12:2).

**FAITH ALONE** Christ and His salvation is not received by doing, but by believing. This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom he hath sent. Anyone who trusts Christ for salvation will be saved. *"The just shall live by faith"* (ROMANS 1:17).

ADAPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY PASTOR **JACK SHANKS** (1929 — 2012)

## HAVING THAT...WHICH IS OF GOD BY FAITH

"BE FOUND IN HIM, NOT HAVING MINE OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH IS OF THE LAW, BUT THAT WHICH IS THROUGH THE FAITH OF CHRIST, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS OF GOD BY FAITH" (PHILIPPIANS 3:9, READ JOHN 3:1-8)

Only those who have experienced the miracle of the new birth, know the difference between *professing* Christ and *possessing* Christ.

PASTOR **GENE HARMON**